the Lions' Pride

Of Saint Leo University

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Elections for the New Year

The Student Government Union held their elections on April 18 and 19

Jessica Williams
Lions' Pride Staff

SAINT LEO – As this school year comes to a close, the Student Government Union held their elections.

For the position of president, junior Catherine Hopkins ran. Junior, Rosanne DiCicco, for vice president of operations. Maria Martin, sophomore, Amberly Rogala, sophomore, and freshman Keith Middlemark for secretary. Janet Levic, freshman, versus junior Amber Davis for the position of vice president of activities. Lastly, for treasurer Mark DeNote.

Class elections were held also. For sophomore class president there was, Crystal Manna and Jennifer Vitiello. Kathryn Etchison versus Dominic Scimeca for junior class president. Joseph Spencer and Jessica Williams competed for senior class president. Molly St. James ran for senior vice president.

After the ballots were counted by the elections committee, candidates were called by SGU President, Teri Smith, stating whether or not they had won. The winners were announced at the SGU meeting on Monday, April 22.

Winners for the executive board were: Hopkins for president; DiCicco for vice president of operations; Martin for secretary; Levic for vice president of activities; and DeNote for treasurer.

The class election winners were: Manna for sophomore class president; Margueax Royals-Frey for sophomore class vice president (won as a write-in); Scimeca for junior class president; Spencer for senior class president; and, St. James for senior class vice president.

During the week of elections, Hopkins advertised her website, http://www.geocities.com/catherinehopkins2002/, for students and faculty to visit to learn more about her platforms. Many of the platforms brought up issues that students have dealt with for several years and have wanted to change.

Due to Levic's experience in helping current vice president of activities, Chris Borg, she knows how to handle things. Saint Leo University can expect a lot of fun activities next year.

Get ready for a new year filled with excitement and new ideas. If you want your voice heard, then attend the SGU meetings next year. Hopkins, the executive board, and the class officers are welcome to suggestions to make the year an even bigger success.

African-Americans leading a higher education

Brillion Williams
Speacial to the Lions' Pride

SAINT LEO - According to the magazine *Black Issues of Higher Education*, Saint Leo is ranked 22nd out of 100 colleges in the nation in terms of bachelors' degrees awarded to African-American students.

This ranking was compiled from all 15 Saint Leo locations. The 15 locations have a total of 9,936 students (Fall 2001).

Diversity is very important at Saint Leo University. Saint Leo offers a course in African-American Literature, which is taught by Dr. Audrey Colombe. Dr. Colombe said that teaching this course is very challenging.

"I know the literature, because I studied it in grad school. I do feel conflicted because I'm white, but I feel African-American literature should be included in the regular American literature," said Dr. Colombe. "There is a need to inform others about the traditions in literature, but I can only teach it from a white person's standpoint."

Saint Leo's MacDill Center, which is located in St. Petersburg, awards African American high school students with college scholarships.

African-American students who attend the University Campus have noticed Saint Leo has become more diverse throughout the years.

Senior Lyndy Compas, a psychology major, said, "I used to be the only black student in my classes. But this year, for the first time, I have noticed the change. Now, there are at least two or more black students in my classes."

In Saint Leo's *Around the World* issue, President Arthur Kirk explained why diversity at Saint Leo University is essential.

"Wherever students are, and whatever their nationality, each is learning to live, work and lead in the multi-national, multi-cultural richness of this time in history. Saint Leo provides them an effective model for life and leadership in this challenging world; a model grounded in our Benedictine values," he said.

This is the tenth consecutive year Saint Leo University has ranked in the top 100 for number of bachelors' degrees awarded to African Americans, and it hopes the number will increase.

Opinions

EDITORIALS

Asian-Americans find A&F shirts offensive

by Linda Luk
Northern Star (Northern Illinois U.)

(U-WIRE) DEKALB, Ill. — What is the big deal? You may ask. Why are people making such a big deal about these Abercrombie & Fitch T-shirts? The deal is that Abercrombie & Fitch T-shirts promote negative stereotypes about Asian-Americans.

Last week, Abercrombie & Fitch began promoting a new line of multicultural clothing. People with slanted eyes, rice patty straw hats and a picture of Buddha are some of the images you would've found on these shirts. The T-shirts included such statements as "Two Wongs can make it White...laundry service" and "Pizza Dojo — eat in or wok out. 1-888-GOO-PEZA." Another shirt said, "Wok-N-Bowl — Let the good times roll — Chinese Food and Bowling." Another had a picture of Buddha with "Buddha Bash...get your Buddha on the floor."

If you look on the surface, sure these shirts are humorous. But if you look at them and really think about them, you might understand why these shirts are offensive.

We all know that racism is very much alive, and so are stereotypes. What these shirts do is promote negative stereotypes. A statement like "Two Wongs can make it white" questions the ability of Asians and Asian Americans to speak proper English, and that all of us have accents. This statement also can be taken as far as to insinuate a value statement that white is better than Asian in America.

Asian Americans are Americans. Some of us are born here and we can speak English as well as anybody else. It is bad enough that the media portray Asian-Americans as foreigners who have thick accents and own Chinese restaurants. All these are negative stereotypes that Asian-Americans try to break free from. That is why Asian-Americans find these T-shirts offensive and derogatory.

A&F has pulled the shirts off the shelves, but the damage has been done. Hundreds, if not thousands of these shirts have been sold, and the company has made its profits. People who bought them and have been educated about how racist these shirts are cannot return them. People still can buy these shirts off eBay. The company has yet to offer a formal public apology. The only apology that has come has been from someone working for a PR firm hired by A&F. It needs to guarantee that this will never happen again. The company also should require diversity training for its staff to ensure sensitivity to minority issues.

Cell phones limit student interaction on campus

Staff Editorial
The Quad (West Chester U.)

(U-WIRE) WEST CHESTER, Pa. — Modern technology has shown to be beneficial in helping to accommodate people in their daily lives. Today channels of communication are exchanged more frequently then ever, as can contact others through email, instant messenger and cell phones just about anywhere. However the amount of freedom that technology has given people is not all positive.

On many occurrences, the ringing of a cell phone has interrupted a class discussion/lecture and caused car accidents because people are distracted by the conversation. Cell phones have even had an effect on the campus climate, as the amount of friendly greetings students used to engage in while walking to class is now limited because everyone would rather talk to someone else not present.

When people do engage in talking to their classmate or friend they are interrupted by someone's cell phone. Think of the message sent by this action, "I would rather talk to someone else right now than continue our conversation."

People can now contact you wherever you are, limiting your privacy. Even if you do not want to talk to someone it is hard to manage to get away... if the cell phone is on then you are able to talk, is the message.

People should ask themselves; do I really need to be talking to

someone when I am riding the bus, walking to class, while driving, or in line for food?

Cell phones are useful and can be a life saver for people during certain instances, such as emergencies. They definitely make our lives convenient, however, people should be aware of preferred etiquette when owning a cell phone.

Turn it off during class. No one needs to hear the ringing of a cell phone while trying to learn. Try walking to class and saying hello to someone who passes you, instead of talking to someone for two minutes.

Pope cleanses the church, finally

Staff Editorial
Northern Star (Northern Illinois U.)

(U-WIRE) DEKALB, Ill. — As U.S. cardinals meet this week with Pope John Paul II to discuss the Catholic Church's sexual abuse scandal, a new door opens in religion.

The Washington Post reported that the pope told the cardinals there is "no place" for child molesters in the church, and that there would be a "purification of the entire Catholic community" stemming from this scandal. This is good news for religion and society as a whole.

While pedophilia within the church sparked this historic meeting, the fact remains that child molestation is not just a crime that is particular to just the Catholic Church, but one that infests our society in general. The meeting not only benefits the church, but society as well, as it casts a light on a crime that has been ignored for far too long.

Problems have risen for the 12 U.S. cardinals because of a lack of substantial guidance from the pope in providing a response that embodies the opinions of all the members of the church. Consensus was not met the first day of discussion on whether or not priests who have committed sex offenses should continue in the ministry, and whether homosexuality or celibacy is suitable for the church.

The church needs to take a solid stance on the impeding scandal and brings resolve to members of the faith.

Now is the time for the church to examine itself and to allow itself to change for the better. Traditions do need to be adhered to. But because of this meeting, it is easy and refreshing to see the church shift its attitude.

WRITE HERE

Send letters to the editor and guest columns to the Lion's Pride newsroom, Saint Edward's Hall, English Department. Or, send your letter/column by e-mail to monarch@saintleo.com

Letters and columns must be submitted with student's name, year and major. Faculty & staff members must include rank and department.

Please include a phone number (not for publication) so we can verify authorship. All letters and columns are subject to editing. The Lion's Pride reserves the right not to publish any letter or column.

Sunburn: What do you need to know?

As summer nears, it is necessary to take precautions.

Jessica Williams
Lions' Pride Staf Writer

SAINT LEO – Summer is just around the corner, so that means it's time to hit the beaches.

However, while students are out having fun, a lot of them are forgetting about the harm caused by the sun. Listen up to prevent being burnt like a crisp.

For starters, sunburn is an acute cutaneous inflammatory reaction that follows excessive exposure of the skin to ultraviolet (UV) radiation. Many people do not realize that sunburn can cause second-degree burns, shock, and in rare cases death.

Those people who are light-skinned are even more prone to sunburn. In many cases, they are susceptible to skin cancers.

My uncle was diagnosed with level 5 melanoma (the cancer caused from exposure to the sun) last year. Since then, he has had many other spots show up on his skin, luckily no more melanoma. From his experience, I am more careful in the sun.

Students often concentrate on getting a tan, and they can never be dark enough. I too, enjoy getting a tan. In high school, my nickname was Albino because I was so white. This made me go out in the sun a lot, and I wound up coming home burnt instead of darker. My mom would always yell at me and tell me to wear sunscreen. After seeing what my uncle has gone through, I wear sunscreen.

Sunscreen is on the market to protect your skin from the UV rays that come from the sun. When you watch the news, the meteorologist always tells what the UV scale is for that day… anything above four, and it is best not to stay out in the sun for too long or to put on a thicker shirt and/or pants. The sunscreen is rated on the Sun Protection Factor (SPF). The most commonly used SPF is 15, which gives enough protection for the day as long as it is reapplied every few hours.

Suzanne Hollis, director of recreation, stated "My basic philosophy is wear sunscreen whenever you are outside for prolonged periods of time, re-apply often, and wear sunglasses because your eyes can get burnt, too."

So, if you do not want to spend hours out of the sun due to peeling or having to go see a dermatologist, be sure to wear sunscreen and do not stay outside for prolonged periods of time.

Americans love to eat on the run

by Renee Rowe
Cavalier Daily (U. Virginia)

(U-WIRE) CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — Bombarded with classes, exams and extracurriculars, busy college students rarely find the time to eat a healthy meal.

Instead, they often turn to fast food alternatives to fill their stomachs at the end of the day or between classes. But as fast food has become an integral part of the American lifestyle, so has excess weight and high blood pressure.

"Fast food is a reflection of the pace in this country," said Rita Smith, a registered dietician at Martha Jefferson Hospital. "People don't take time to eat and everything is frantic."

Eating fast food has risen from occasional to routine, while ideally it should be a rare event, Smith added. In 1970, Americans spent about $6 billion annually on fast food — by 2000, the number skyrocketed to $110 billion.

"I go to McDonald's on a daily basis because it is fast and convenient," first-year Engineering student Nicole Rossi said. "All I have to say is medium number three with a diet coke and it is there within a few moments."

The 2001 Quick Service Restaurant report ranked McDonald's No. 1 in fast food net sales. Burger King came in second, and KFC, Pizza Hut, Wendy's, Taco Bell, Hardee's and Domino's Pizza were among the top 10.

"We love convenience. We are not a society that likes cooking and sitting down to eat a healthy meal," Student Health Clinical Nutritionist Susan Del Gobbo said.

According to Smith, 61 percent of adults in this country are overweight or obese. The National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute assesses weight using a measurement called the body mass index. Individuals' BMI is calculated by dividing their weight in kilograms by the square of their height in meters. Overweight people have a BMI of 25 to 29.9, while obese people have a BMI greater than 30.

With many Americans eating fast food on a daily basis, it's no wonder their waistlines are expanding. One fast food sandwich a day often can come close to exceeding single-handedly the Food and Drug Administration's recommended daily allowances.

For example, one McDonald's Big Mac sandwich has 560 calories and 31 grams of fat, about half of the FDA recommended daily fat intake. A Burger King Whopper sandwich has 730 calories and 46 grams of fat. A sandwich does not always fill a hungry appetite on its own, though — side items such as french fries are ordered just as often.

"What's a quarter-pounder without the fries?" Rossi asked.

French fries are the most widely sold fast food item, with some experts estimating the typical American consumes more than 30 pounds of fries each year.

"I see a surprising number of college-age students with high blood pressure, high cholesterol and excess weight," Smith said. "Eating fast food on a regular basis can lead to these health risks."

Nutrition experts like Del Gobbo point out that the modern fast food lifestyle too often results in excessive calories and fat in American's diets. Many nutrition experts believe food habits developed as a child often carry over into adolescence and adulthood.

"For children, eating fast food as a routine often leads to narrow food preferences, high fat intake and by their teens they are battling their waistline," Smith said.

Many fast food restaurants are starting to offer healthier food choices, such as garden burgers and veggie burgers.

"While I'm not an advocate for fast food, there are items which tend to be lower in fat and saturated fat than others," Del Gobbo said. "I suggest grilled rather than fried, a burger without cheese, a garden burger if available and salads, but watch the dressing."

Items marked "salad" on the menu can be deceiving — just because it's a salad doesn't mean it's healthier. A taco salad and a 16-ounce soda from Taco Bell contains a whopping 1,057 calories and 57 grams of fat.

Smith advises choosing single layer sandwiches without cheese and smaller portions of fries to cut down on fat and calorie intake.

"Stay away from items that are supersized, jumbo or biggie-sized," she added. "That is only adding more calories and fat, especially with fries."

Smith suggests trying a happy meal or a kid's meal in place of extra value meals or replacing fries with a tossed side salad in order to add fiber. But although healthy choices among fast food items exist, many Americans find it difficult to give up their favorite meals, no matter what the cost.

"I'm not going to stop eating what I love to eat because of possible health concerns," Rossi said. "I'm young and it hasn't affected me yet."

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Zoumberos, Michael S.

Saint Leo University confers 405 degrees at 2002 commencement

SAINT LEO (public relations) - After years of dedication and hard work, 405 students will celebrate the completion of undergraduate and graduate coursework as degree candidates at Saint Leo University's commencement ceremony May 11 at 2 p.m. at the Marion Bowman Activities Center at the University Campus in Saint Leo, Fla. A baccalaureate mass will be held at the Activities Center at 10 a.m.

The graduates have fulfilled the requirements for the following degrees: associate's of arts, bachelor's of arts, bachelor of social work, bachelor's of science, master's of business administration and master's of educational leadership and attended Saint Leo at the University Campus in the University College, Weekend and Evening or graduate programs. Thirty-eight graduates of the Center for Online Learning also will participate in the ceremony.

Sister Mary Rose McGeady, D.C., president of Covenant House of New York City, will deliver the commencement address, and Joseph Capitano Sr. and Sister McGeady will be awarded honorary degrees in recognition of their service and leadership. For the past 12 years, Sister McGeady has served as president of Covenant House, an international child care program caring for more than 61,000 homeless and abused young people each year. She has dedicated her more than 50 years of professional work experience to the care and rehabilitation of young children in our nation. Capitano dedicates countless hours of service to education, history and preservation of the Tampa area. His work includes leadership roles with Saint Lawrence Catholic Church, Day Top Village drug rehabilitation center, Central Park Village Youth Services, Ybor City Development Corporation and he currently serves (for the sixth year) as president of the Italian Club of Tampa.

The University Campus commencement is one of 11 ceremonies this summer for students at the University's many locations throughout the southeastern United States. Four commencement ceremonies are scheduled for the Florida locations: the Ocala Center on May 4, the North Florida Regional Centers (Gainesville, Lake City, Palatka, Mayport and Saint Augustine) on May 18 and the Key West Center on May 24.

Arts & Entertainment

MUSIC IN REVIEW

'Uninvisible' sees Medeski, Martin and Wood get into the groove

by Max Novakowski
The Diamondback (U. Maryland)

(U-WIRE) COLLEGE PARK, Md. - Medeski Martin and Wood's last album was called The Dropper, hinting at what they figured their label would do to them after hearing the record. The Dropper was, without a doubt, the most radical collection of tracks the trio had ever commercially released in its 10-year career. The album bounced from blues to free jazz to funk with reckless abandon.

Some tracks went nowhere and others, like the opener "We Are Rolling" practically assaulted the listener. It wasn't an easy album to digest, but it proved rewarding after repeated listens.

To avoid the inevitable pressure of following up "The Dropper," the band spent the last year on side projects and released its second live album, "Electric Tonic," with little fanfare. When they got around to making the recently released "Uninvisible," they decided to re-team with hip-hop engineer Scotty Hard who had contributed to the dark, dubby feel of "The Dropper" and 1998's "ombustication."

"Uninvisible" comes across as a broad attempt to sum up almost every one of the band's previous albums. The over 14 tracks MMW manage to work in funk of "Shack-Man," the horns of "Notes From The Underground," the spaciness of "The Dropper," moody atmosphere and turntable trickery of "Combustication," as well as some excellent guitar and percussion work. The only thing that's missing is a straight-up acoustic number.

"Uninvisible" also showcases the talent of bassist Chris Wood more than previous efforts. While the other albums often seemed to be dominated by John Medeski's keyboard playing, and "The Dropper" was full of Billy Martin's heavy beats, Wood's bass lines sit front and center on numerous tracks this time, both anchoring the groove and laying down the melody.

At its best, "Uninvisible" shows how well MMW can work guests into its sound. "Retirement Song" is a tour de force, with guests Scotty Hard and Danny Bloom providing guitar lines that work their way effortlessly into the trio's sound. DJ P Love works the turntables in a brief performance that gives way to an excellent percussion duet between Martin and Eddie Bobe. Just when it seems like the track has run its course, Medeski plays a spooky half-video-game-half-horror-flick theme that returns later in the album as "Reprise."

"You Are Snake Anthony" is a spoken sequel to "Combustication"'s "What Ever Happened To Gus?" While Steve Cannon's vocals and Wood's upright playing on "Gus" evokes a smoky jazz club in New York City. On "Snake Anthony," Col. Bruce Hampton provides a bizarre portrait of the road: touring Finland and England, sleeping in a shack and taking the mysterious Snake Anthony on the road with his band. Before you can figure out what Hampton is talking about, the band slams into "Pappy Shack," which has the most straightforward organ groove on the album.

At times, though, the guests overrun "Uninvisible." Many listeners will probably wonder whether it was really necessary to have turntablists appear on half the tracks. The best track of the bunch, "Smoke" (which the band has recently been playing live after a cover of Jimi Hendrix's "Fire"), happens to be played by just the trio. Wood's bassline is undeniably hummable, Martin's beat is strong but never overly predictable and Medeski's keyboard work is the icing on the cake. The song is very up-tempo and the catchiest number the band has made since Shack-Man's "Bubblehouse."

"I Wanna Ride You" is another solid trio number where Medeski's playing on the Hammond organ moves from a gospel feeling at the beginning to a more laid back groove. At the end of the track the band adds a little surprise melody that one can already imagine the trio playing live, all standing on the lip of the stage, unmiked.

And that's something that always has to be kept in mind with MMW albums: Whatever they do in the studio is really just a taste of their live show. Multiple tracks just sort of end, seemingly without conclusion, as if the boys are teasing the listener to come hear the real conclusions when they come to town. With that said, "Uninvisible" reinforces that while Medeski, Martin and Wood is one of the most forward thinking acts around today, they still know that the groove always comes first.

MOVIES IN REVIEW

Carefree Jolie just like 'Life'

by Todd Laplace
The Lantern (Ohio State U.)

(U-WIRE) COLUMBUS, Ohio - With few exceptions, romantic comedies share one common trait: Predictability.

They all follow the same cookie-cutter pattern, only varying the levels of outrageously unrealistic situations the characters must free themselves from.

Girl meets boy. Girl hates boy. Girl wants boy. Problems separate boy from girl. Girl tries desperately to overcome problems to be with boy in order to ride off into the sunset together.

Director Stephen Herek's "Life or Something Like It" is no exception. The girl in question, Lanie (a platinum Angelina Jolie), has everything she ever wanted. She works as a broadcast journalist covering the off-beat life that resides in Seattle. She lives in a large high-rise apartment with her baseball-playing fiancé Cal ("Angel's" Christian Kane). She's even up for a promotion to a national morning show, "A.M. USA."

Here's where screenwriter John Scott Shepard makes his own alterations to the standard in order to get Lanie together with Pete (Edward Burns), her one true boy.

Lanie is sent to interview Prophet Jack (Tony Shalhoub), a noted sidewalk savant. He proceeds to make four predictions for Lanie and her legion of fans: A Seattle Seahawks victory over the Denver Broncos, a morning hail shower, a missed promotion for Lanie and her death on the following Thursday.

Herek was lucky to land Jolie for this role, because Lanie's descent into a carefree last week alive couldn't be pulled off by most actresses. Perhaps it's Jolie's own peculiar life (with a blood-filled necklace and a too-close relationship with her brother) that lends credibility to Lanie's crazy on-air antics.

In one of Jolie's finest on-screen moments, she leads a striking corps of transportation workers in a chorus of The Rolling Stones' "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction," which is replayed on TV without any soundtrack accompaniment, leaving just Jolie's off-beat voice to carry the tune.

Along the way, Lanie is comforted by Pete, who informs her that if she changes her life, she may be able to cheat Jack's prediction, which, in typical Lanie fashion, she takes with a grain of salt and a bottle of rum (yes, Lanie was drunk at the time of her song).

Jolie has been on a downward spiral of her own since gaining the attention of Hollywood with her performance as Lisa, a sociopath, in "Girl, Interrupted." She followed up that Oscar-winning role with numerous critically despised roles, which showed her off as nothing more than eye candy for teen-age boys.

In contrast, Lanie rises above her nothing-more-than-sex-appeal beginnings, with her Marilyn Monroe tresses and long press-on nails, to come close to the epitome of the modern woman with her career/love success combo. The movie even manages to make Jolie seem sexier when she's dressed down in a sweatshirt or her black glasses, sending a positive message to women.

If only Shepard could have done the same thing for his other star character. Best known as one of Tom Hanks' soldiers in "Saving Private Ryan," Burns clomps through his scenes with the grace of a robot. Even scenes with Pete's son fail to bring any feelings out of his thick hide. He may be billed as the film's desirable leading man, but appearing as a moody, lazy, sex-addicted cameraman doesn't exactly stir any base desires. Coming off "The Man Who Wasn't There" — for which he may have been Oscar-snubbed — Shalhoub does wonders shouting his predictions to the masses, who are both drawn in by his natural charisma and put off by his shabby appearance (Prophet Jack is homeless). Kane's emotionally vacant Cal even manages to steal scenes away from Jolie. Coming home from a New York commercial shoot, Cal enters the apartment to find the new Lanie smoking and bingeing on junk food. He attempts to cure this emotional crisis with the one thing that always cheers him up — 15 minutes of batting practice.

While the film will most certainly not earn Jolie another acting award, it does succeed as a wonderful date movie and as a pleasant surprise among today's crop of empty Hollywood films.

Bush considers limits for international students.

International students may be barred from studying in certain academic fields.

by Catharine Bookstaver
The Daily Cardinal (U. Wisconsin)

(U-WIRE) MADISON, Wis. — The Bush administration soon may take another step toward limiting the freedoms of international students in the spirit of preserving national security.

According to Monday's Chronicle for Higher Education, President Bush has formed an interagency work group to consider barring some international students from studying academic fields that have a direct application to the development and use of weapons of mass destruction. Among the fields of study that may be restricted are nuclear technology, chemical engineering, biotechnology, advanced computer technology and robotics.

Rhonda Norsetter, special assistant to the chancellor, said University of Wisconsin-Madison has joined other universities in speaking regularly with members of White House staff to ensure educators have the opportunity to give input on the final proposals; however, Norsetter said it has been hard to find out in which direction the administration's committee is going.

"I do think people working on it have an understanding of how a university functions and needs to function," Norsetter said. "Hopefully they take that under consideration as they come up with some proposals."

Despite much speculation on what the interagency group may recommend, spokeswoman Kathryn Harrington of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, said the coalition is still in the decision-making process; however, Harrington said it is likely the committee will seek consult from the scientific and academic communities.

"There is an interagency working group out of the Office of Homeland Security that's made up of people from the President's Office of Science and Technology Policy that includes the Department of Justice, State, etc.," Harrington said. "All the groups are brought together to discuss why this is necessary."

Norsetter has been aware of the existence of the interagency group since October.

"I think it's been an in-house process so far, and ... they will then turn to those outside the White House once they have some proposals. [These] may be forthcoming in the next week," Norsetter said.

Harrington said the details still are being worked out, and the group has no specific date to release its recommendations.

Asif Sheikh, a UW-Madison senior and president of the Muslim Student Association, said the idea of recommendations to limit areas of study to international students does not make sense to him.

"There is no need to discriminate against international students who want to study science and math," Sheikh said.

Sheikh said if the directives are enforced, many international students would be taken aback and less likely to study in the United States.

Norsetter said she did not know how a future directive would affect international student enrollment, but this year UW-Madison and many other universities are seeing an increase in international applications.

Harrington said the interagency group is sensitive to international students' contributions to American universities.

"It's important to know the interagency group is working hard to balance the needs of homeland security with the contributions that international students do make [to our universities]," Harrington said.

Saint Leo students volunteer their Spring Break to go help in Haiti.

Students who traveled to Haiti to give of themselves found they received a lot more in return.

Johanna Marie Pitts
Special to the Lions' Pride

SAINT LEO - For this year's Spring Break, ten Saint Leo students chose to volunteer in Haiti. Instead of going to Daytona or Fort Lauderdale Beach, they traveled to the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere to help and encourage their children and adults to a better life.

Father Michael Cooper, S.J., S.T. D. started the program three years ago and continues to coordinate the trips. Sister Clair Daneau of the orphanage is the contact for the program and "makes everything fall into place." Also, Saint Leo student Laude Saint-Preux has been actively involved in starting a library in his hometown of Cap Hatien, Haiti. Three donated computers and books were taken on this year's trip.

Not only is Haiti the poorest country, but Father Michael feels it is the most challenging.

"The average annual salary in Haiti is $600.00", he said.

He tells story after story illustrating the poverty. "Only fifty-percent of the children go to school," he says. "You see people washing their clothes by a fountain."

In one story, a father left his baby, whose mother died during childbirth, at the orphanage because he didn't have the money to buy the milk.

"It costs $45.00 a month for milk, and the father's salary is $42.00 a month," he said.

Freshman Maria Victoria Chiriboga was one of the students who experienced the trip this year. She was very pleased to spend her first Spring Break doing volunteer work in Haiti.

"I've always wanted to help the poor," she said, "and to see the way they live."

Chiriboga and other students painted the inside of one of the orphanage houses. Mostly they gave attention to the children, she explained.

"You could see hunger for attention in their eyes," she said.

Chiriboga brings back many memories of Haiti: "The nature was beautiful. The ocean was caribbean blue and the jungle was very green."

But the people and their living conditions seemed to make a lasting impression on her.

"I have the memory of the shacks and people in them, but how happy they were under such poor conditions." she said.

Haitian children have many basic needs. When a Saint Leo student saw that one young boy walked to school ten miles each way, he gave him money to buy a bicycle. The next day the child was riding the bike. Chiriboga explained that the visits from Saint Leo students give the children hope for a better life.

She was touched by the culture because of the how loving the people are.

"Sometimes you'd have five children at one time on you," she said.

Although the purpose of the trip is for our students to reach out and help them, the children ended up helping our students in return. Experiencing their culture teaches a simple lesson.

"You don't have to have toys. You don't have to have technology or anything material. All you need is love, and food." Chiriboga said.

She expressed that it was hard to come back.

Father Michael explains what the experience teaches the students when they come back: "Their eyes have been opened to the goodness of people, people whose poverty smothers their spirit."

The main focus of the trip is the orphanage and to do whatever Sister Claire needs. Father Michael explains that the qualities in a Saint Leo student volunteer is "to be mature, other-centered, and have a sense of service." "And to be a catholic/christian and bring a faith-dimension to the work," he said.

"A trip like this to Haiti brings out the best in a Saint Leo student."

Sports

Golf, men's gymnastics programs suffer nationally

University athletic programs nationwide face an uphill battle as numbers dramatically decline.

by Adam Fink
Minnesota Daily (U. Minnesota)

(U-WIRE) MINNEAPOLIS — University of Minnesota athletes and coaches combating the University's proposal to cut men's gymnastics and men's and women's golf face an uphill battle, as all three sports fall into the trend of not enough national support.

Although men's and women's golf has shown an increase in the number of teams since 1981, men's gymnastics has seen a dramatic decline. The three sports the University proposes to cut all rank in the lower half of the total number of teams nationally within their gender, with men's gymnastics (21 teams) ahead of only men's skiing (11).

During Thursday's announcement, President Mark Yudof acknowledged money was a big factor in the University's proposal to eliminate the three programs.

"The challenges we are struggling with here at the University of Minnesota are not unique," Yudof said. "Indeed, university athletics programs nationwide are facing similar financial pressures and implementing similar solutions."

According to the NCAA, there were 83 women's and 263 men's golf teams in 1981. In 2001 there were 197 and 287, respectively.

During the same time period, women's cross country jumped from 183 to 314 teams. On the men's side, cross country gained 34 teams, going from 266 to 300.

Coach Melissa Arthur Ringler attributes the growth of women's golf to schools realizing it's a growing sport and complying with Title IX. For these reasons, the possible elimination of her program puzzles her.

"I never imagined women's golf — or men's golf — would be eliminated," the third-year coach said. "It seems smaller schools would be the ones to cut it and not a large school like Minnesota."

While golf programs have increased their number, men's gymnastics is suffering from a rapidly decreasing number of teams. Thirty-eight schools dropped the sport over the past 21 years, and recent cutbacks at Iowa State University and universities of Wisconsin, Massachusetts and Vermont suggest a trend.

In his 31st year at Minnesota, men's gymnastics coach Fred Roethlisberger said in the past he had about 12 walk-ins try out for the team. But with more schools cutting their programs, he had 25 gymnasts try out last year.

Should his program be cut, Roethlisberger hopes some of his 15 gymnasts will catch on with other teams next year, even though the spring signing period began this week.

"There are no scholarships left at other schools for next season," Roethlisberger said. "I hope they can walk on. This is just horrible. We need at least another year to allow my athletes the opportunity to transfer somewhere else."

For many institutions trying to balance their books and move out of the red, cutting smaller-revenue sports seems to be the solution.

"It's always about the money," Roethlisberger said. "That is the root problem."

In an effort to trim a projected $21 million deficit over the next five years, the University's plan will cut the three programs and save $900,000 annually.

"The university is facing a tremendous budget deficit.in intercollegiate athletics over the next five years," University Vice President Tonya Moten Brown said, "and that calls for very tough decisions."

The staff of
The Lions' Pride
wishes everyone a
happy and safe summer.